

ST. LEONARD, MD – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) attended a tour of the Morgan State Estuarine Research Center (ERC) and was briefed on their Oyster Hatchery project. Local watermen who are benefitting from the program joined him at the briefing.

“I was pleased to see the progress that has been made since the oyster hatchery opened and hear firsthand how it is benefitting local watermen,” **stated**

Congressman Hoyer. “I am committed to making the investments needed to continue this work. Restoring our oyster population is critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay and is a boost to our local economy and job creation.”

Congressman Hoyer secured \$1.17 million for the oyster hatchery over Fiscal Years 2008 to 2010. The hatchery, a joint effort between Morgan State University and the Calvert County Waterman's Association, utilizes native oysters to support local aquaculture through research and production and provides technical guidance to help transfer the hatchery technology into the oyster industry.